

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

The following is the status of the claims of the above-captioned application, as amended.

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A method for preparing a particulate composition having ~~improved average strength of particles comprising~~ contacting water soluble particulate starting materialenzyme granules with a liquid in an amount not exceeding 20% by weight to form a mixture; and

subjecting the mixture to high shear at a rate wherein more than 80% of the ~~particles in the particulate starting material~~enzyme granules remain un-agglomerated, and wherein the particulate starting material is fully water solublecomposition has an improved average strength compared to a particulate composition similarly formed without mixture at a high shear rate.

Claim 2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~further comprising the step of isolating a fraction of unbroken or whole particles~~enzyme granules having improved average strength compared to a enzyme granules similarly formed without mixture at a high shear rate~~having a higher average particle strength than the particulate starting material.~~

Claim 3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2 comprising:

- (a) providing a water soluble particulate starting materialenzyme granules to be improved;
- (b) providing a liquid;
- (c) subjecting the water soluble particulate starting materialenzyme granules and liquid to high shear treatment wherein the amount of liquid added and the high shear rate is adjusted as to substantially avoid agglomeration of particulate starting materialenzyme granules; and
- (d) separating a desired fraction of particles enzyme granules, wherein the desired fraction of particles enzyme granules obtained by separation has a higher average particle strength compared to the same fraction obtained from the particulate starting materialenzyme granules provided in (a).

Claim 4. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~particulate starting material~~ isenzyme granules are characterised ~~by~~ as having a particle size of at least 50  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 5. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~particulate starting material~~ isenzyme granules are characterized ~~by~~ as having a particle size of at least 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 6. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~particulate starting material~~ isenzyme granules are characterized ~~by~~ as having a particle size of at least 200  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 7. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~particulate starting material~~ isenzyme granules are characterized ~~by~~ as having a particle size of less than 800  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 8. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said ~~particulate starting material~~ has enzyme granules have a density of at least 1.3 g/cm<sup>3</sup>.

Claim 9. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said ~~particulate starting material~~ has enzyme granules have a density of at least 1.5 g/cm<sup>3</sup>.

Claim 10. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~particulate starting material~~ isenzyme —granules comprise ~~comprising~~ an active compound.

Claim 11. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 401, wherein the ~~active compound is an enzyme~~ enzyme granules comprise one or more enzymes.

Claim 12. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~particulate starting material is selected from the group of~~ enzyme granules comprise salt and or sugar.

Claim 13. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the liquid is water or oil.

Claim 14. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the liquid is aqueous.

Claim 15. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the liquid is a saturated solution of one or more of the compounds present in the ~~particulate starting material~~ enzyme granules.

Claim 16. (Original) The method according to claim 13, wherein salt, carbohydrates, binders, fibres, fillers, or other conventional coating materials are added to the liquid.

Claim 17. (Canceled)

Claim 18. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the high shear treatment performed in a high shear mixer and the applied shear is in the range of 0.5 and  $3\text{ s}^{-1}$ .

Claim 19. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of drying a high shear treated particulate material.

Claim 20. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~particulate starting material~~ enzyme granules and liquid are exposed to high shear until at least 5 % of the particles are destroyed or broken down to a size outside the size distribution of the ~~particulate starting material~~ enzyme granules.

Claims 21-26 (Canceled)

Claim 27. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, comprising subjecting the mixture to high shear at a rate so that more than 85% of the ~~un-agglomerated particles~~ enzyme granules in the ~~particulate starting material~~ remain are un-agglomerated.

Claim 28. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, comprising subjecting the mixture to high shear at a rate so that more than 90% of the ~~un-agglomerated particles in the particulate starting material remain enzyme granules are~~ un-agglomerated.

Claim 29. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, comprising subjecting the mixture to high shear at a rate so that more than 95% of the ~~un-agglomerated particles in the particulate starting material enzyme granules are~~ remain un-agglomerated.

Claim 30. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, comprising subjecting the mixture to high shear at a rate so that more than 98% of the ~~un-agglomerated particles in the particulate starting material remain enzyme granules are~~ un-agglomerated.

Claim 31. (Currently amended) A method for preparing a particulate composition having improved average strength of particles comprising contacting water soluble enzyme granule starting material with a liquid in an amount not exceeding 20% by weight to form a mixture and subjecting the mixture to high shear at a rate in an amount of  $0.5\text{s}^{-1}$  to  $3.0\text{s}^{-1}$ , wherein more than 80% of the un-agglomerated enzyme granules in the water soluble enzyme granule starting material remains un-agglomerated, wherein the starting material is not substantially dissolved however characterized as a fully water soluble material.

Claim 32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 31 further comprising isolating a fraction of particles comprising unbroken or whole particles from the enzyme granule starting material.

Claim 33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the fraction is a selection of enzyme granules having a diameter of 300  $\mu\text{m}$  to 600  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 34. (Currently amended) A method for preparing a particulate composition having improved average strength of particles comprising contacting a water soluble

starting material with a liquid in an amount not exceeding 20% by weight to form a mixture and subjecting the mixture to high shear at a rate in an amount of  $0.5\text{s}^{-1}$  to  $3.0\text{s}^{-1}$ , wherein more than 80% of the starting material remains un-agglomerated, and wherein the starting material is selected from the group consisting of pharmaceutical granules, enzyme granules, and fertilizer granules, salt particles, sugar particles, and carbohydrate particles, wherein the particulate starting material is not substantially dissolved however characterized as fully water soluble.

Claim 35-37. (Canceled)

38. (Currently amended) A method for preparing a particulate composition having improved average strength of particles comprising:  
contacting solid formed water soluble particulate starting material enzyme granules with a liquid in an amount not exceeding 20% by weight to form a mixture; and subjecting the mixture to high shear at a rate wherein more than 80% of the particles in the particulate starting material enzyme granules remain substantially un-agglomerated.

39. (Canceled)

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the liquid is in an amount not exceeding 15% by weight.

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the liquid is in an amount not exceeding 10% by weight.

42. (Previously presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the liquid is in an amount not exceeding 15% by weight.

43. (Previously presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the liquid is in an amount not exceeding 10% by weight.